

We are rejoiced to learn from a friend who has had good opportunities for forming an opinion, and in whose judgment we have great confidence, that the re-election of the Hon. Thos. S. Ashe is regarded as certain. There is perhaps no election in the State in which so general an interest is felt. Mr. Ashe is a gentleman of every faculty, whose experience in the National Council is valuable and should not be lost without some compensating advantage. His frank, honest, gentlemanly bearing and character give him influence in Congress, as everywhere, and reflect honor upon the people who select him to represent them—it must be a worthy and intelligent community that chooses such a man as its agent. It would not be wise, in a time of difficulty and danger, to discard a faithful representative, familiar with his duties and having the confidence of those with whom he is associated.

We learn that Mr. Ashe has everywhere in the canvass, whilst expressing the strong desire for peace, maintained that the "peace meetings" in this State, so far from prompting peace, were of directly opposite tendency, calculated to encourage the enemy and to prolong the war. There can be no doubt about the truth of this, and the country owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Ashe for making it plain in sections where "peace meetings" were at first popular. We ourselves have seen written evidence that they have caused desertions from our army; and the yankee papers abundantly show that they have possessed all yankeedom with hopes of speedily regaining North Carolina, and encouraged them to call for more troops to invade the interior of the State in the expectation of finding friends there in the persons of the holders of these meetings. These meetings, therefore, in most of which we have no doubt good and patriotic men participated under the delusive expectation that they might in some way or other promote that end which we all so ardently desire, have really and manifestly weakened our army, divided our people to some extent, and encouraged the enemy. Such effects could only lead to a prolongation of the war, the very opposite of what was intended. It gives us more pleasure than we can express to learn that even the participants in this movement have become aware of its hurtful tendency, and that consequently peace meetings are in disfavor, even in counties where they were most popular.

It is natural that it should be so. The people of North Carolina are emphatically a law-abiding people. And when those who inconsiderately proposed that "the people" should open negotiations for peace, or that the State should do so on its own part, without securing the co-operation of sister States which have with her borne the shock of this great struggle, it was only necessary to remind such a law-abiding people that neither they nor their State could lawfully or honorably do any such thing. They had wisely delegated the treaty-making power—which they could not use themselves—to the Confederate President and Senate: made them their agents to accomplish this purpose, dear to all, of securing as soon as possible a really honorable peace—a peace that would give us independence, without which there can be no peace. The sober second thought has deeply impressed these truths upon the minds of the people, even in the sections where "peace meetings" have been held; and the result is, as we learn verbally and by letter, not that the desire for "a speedy, an honorable, and a lasting peace" is dying out—God forbid!—but that the restless desire to usurp the power delegated to the authorities is dying out. Sensible people have become satisfied that that power is in the right hands, and that it will be exerted at the very first moment in which it can be made effective. The war will not last one day longer than is necessary to secure peace with independence. We fully concur with a position that we hear was taken by Mr. Ashe, that the government might tender the olive branch to the Lincoln government after any great advantage gained by us. The President might tender it under such a state of things with honor to himself and with a faint shadow of hope that Lincoln would accept it. It was at first thought—probable this was the occasion of Mr. Ashe's taking that position—that the battle of Chickamauga was such a "complete" victory as would justify the President in now making such overtures. But that battle is to be fought over again. If it should again result, through the blessing of God, in our favor—if Rosecrans should be starved into a surrender, or his army driven into the Tennessee, or "destroyed," then he for another tender of peace, not by irresponsible individuals, but by the President of the Confederate States.

Another reason for the disfavor into which these "peace meetings" have fallen, is, that honest men were not inclined to the association of persons who claimed to belong to their party and yet unblushingly resolved that they would "pay no tithes to Bradford or to any body else," and of traitors who resolved that they were "for the [yankee] constitution as it is and the Union as it was." Ninety-nine hundred-

ths of the "peace party," with all their society for peace, are too honest to set with those who glory in refusing to pay their just debts, whether to government or to individuals, too patriotic to be Tories, and too intelligent not to see that the old United States constitution is a dead letter as to them and their rights, and the old Union an impossibility. Hence, honest and patriotic and intelligent men have come out from among the illegitimate peace party, and North Carolina is herself again—the same sober, honest, unblinking, patriotic and intelligent old State, which has given her treasure and her blood for independence, and will have nothing short of independence as their price.

CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

SALISBURY, N. C.:
MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 19, 1863.

Another Candidate in the Field.

We are authorized, by the friends of Dr. J. G. Ramsey of Rowan, to announce that gentleman as a candidate to represent the 5th Congressional District in the next Congress of the Confederate States.

Standard, Progress, Western Democrat and Bulletin please insert until the election and forward bills to this office.

We call the attention of all interested to the notice of Capt. H. McCoy, to be found in another column.

THE PROSPECT.

From every quarter of the Confederacy the state of our affairs are satisfactory. Our Arms have been victorious upon every field, and the enemy drives back with loss and ignoble defeat. We have seen and conversed with a friend just from the scene of Gen. Bragg's field of operations, and the account he gives of it is decidedly interesting, and affords a strong hope that we will make the Yankees yet feel the power of our arms in the capture of old Roanoke's whole army or worst it more than any one of their armies have ever been before. If, as we hope, Gen. Bragg can capture or disperse this force, the war we think must soon end, but while we express this opinion, let no effort be relaxed in behalf of our cause by every one, and we are sure of a triumph in the end.

From Mississippi our troops have had some severe skirmishing, and have captured a large number of prisoners, and cut the enemy's rail way communication besides destroying any number of wagons with stores.

In Virginia, as will be seen, things are not stationary. Meade, the Yankee General, is on the backward movement, and Gen. Lee in pursuit of him. And if Meade does not mind his rear better than most of his predecessors have done, he may find some pretty rough customers to contend with.

Upon the whole, the skies are brighter, and we feel convinced, that by united, energetic effort, our independence will be secured in good time, and then, the future will be bright. No nation on earth ever had such a prospect for greatness and power, since the world began, as is now before the Southern Confederacy. Possessed of a climate suitable for nearly every description of luxury to be desired by a people, and producing four of the principal productions, for which the world is mainly dependent upon us, how can the South fail to rank among the first nations of the earth for power and wealth, and every other characteristic which makes a nation respected and feared?

CAPT. WM. A. GRAHAM, JR.—We learn that Captain William A. Graham, Jr., Company K, 2nd N. C. Cavalry Regiment, has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General of this State, and has accepted the appointment. Capt. G. is a son of Hon. William A. Graham, has been in service ever since the commencement of hostilities and leaves four brothers in the field, viz: Major John W. Graham, 56th Regiment; Capt. Joseph Graham, Light Battery "C," 10th Regiment; Captain Robert D. Graham, 56th Regiment; and 1st Lieutenant Jas. A. Graham, 27 Regiment N. C. Troops.—*Rail Progress*
Captain Graham was wounded at Gettysburg.

Five sons imperiling their lives in the war and on all occasions demanding words or actions to attest his devotion to the Confederate cause, found ready and yet unblinking there are persons in North Carolina who affect to doubt, or fear, that WM. A. GRAHAM is not right! There can be no better proof that these doubters are themselves wrong—somehow, and they ought to try to get right. And they ought to expect their error and pray to be delivered from a doubting mind and a hasty spirit.—*Salisbury Watchman*.

Yes, and who is it that has dared to whisper treason against this great and good man, one of the purest and best that the State has

ever produced? It is his miserable action with which the Watchman is now occupied, and which that paper and the Fayetteville Observer are ascribing to the leadership of Gov. Graham acted with the large majority of our people who cast their votes for Vance for Governor, and for this it was denounced and vilified by a miserable action in this State, and though the *Wolfeboro' and Observer* have sold themselves to this faction they shrink from the dirty work that is expected at their hands, and what told to attack the loyalty of such a man as WM. A. GRAHAM, no wonder the hand loses its power and the pen its force.—*Rail Progress*.

The above is a most gratuitous and unmitigated falsehood, and the editor of the *Progress* was fully aware of it when he penned the article. But it is in keeping with the loose way the *Progress* has been pursuing in its *floundrings* to strike the popular breeze from its first issue. Will the Hon. WM. A. GRAHAM feel complimented by the fulsome praise of another *eleventh hour man*, who has just found out that he is a very great, as well as a very good man! This the *Watchman* has told the people of North Carolina for more than twenty-five years, and has had no reason to change the opinion, as it has lost no opportunity to impress upon the people the importance of selecting just such men to adorn the Councils of the Confederacy. But not so with the new-fledged admirer of this erratic sheet. The editor has been jumping from one hobby to another to make a stir in the world to such an extent, that at one time it was thought he would at last turn up an out-and-out yankee; and now he is trying to out Herod Herod in his support of men he heretofore uniformly opposed, and because their consistent advocates for a quarter of a century past does not fall in with his *gabbling nonsense*, he has the unblushing impudence to use the word *sold* respecting them. Out upon such men. They are far more a curse to any cause than advantage. Let the people beware of such wolves in sheep's clothing.

The *Standard*, too, another *eleventh hour man*, in his issue of the 13th instant, undertakes to read us a lecture, coupled with a sort of threat. We will inform all such, that we are under no obligations to them. Our duty is plain. We prefer the welfare of the country far more, than the making of great men out of those who have heretofore aspersed the character of such men as WM. A. GRAHAM for more than twenty years; and now, when they have failed to secure that for which they deserted these very men, are again attempting to attach themselves to their coat tails to reach places of honor and trust, which they are utterly unworthy to fill. Such men can receive no aid from us. In addition to this, the recent course of the *Standard* in giving place to such articles as "Davidson," whose author is known to be an avowed enemy to the Confederacy, and who, upon all occasions, in speaking of the Confederate Government to those opposed to him in sentiment, says your government, smacks too strongly of *Yankeeism*, for us, and unless the *Standard* excludes all such infamous productions from its columns hereafter, it can have no cause to complain, if it is known and recognized as an enemy to our cause, and one which should be speedily dispensed with.

For ourself the *Watchman* shall not, while under our control, be the echo of any set of men or party that does not come up to those principles we have heretofore faithfully labored and struggled for. So such men as Gov. Vance, Wm. A. Graham, and others we might mention, while they pursue the course they have done, will never give a ready and cordial support—not for self, but for the good we hope to render our country by helping to elevate pure and patriotic men to fill the high places of the country.

As to the charge of the *Standard* that the *Watchman* was ever committed to the support of Mr. Johnston for Governor, and only "detached by the nomination of Mr. GRAHAM" by that paper, it is without the least foundation in truth. In the article, referring to his nomination, we spoke of him as a gentleman of intelligence and high moral character, to which we still adhere. If that committed us, we were committed. We think an editor may speak well of a candidate without necessarily supporting his election. And so far as party was concerned in that election, it will be recollected that as a means of overruling party, we were in favor of any number of candidates being brought out, from one to five hundred. We believe

that the only safe course is to keep the vote of party, in the hands of the man they believe best fitted to fill the place. For our party we are no candidate's particular friend and will not use our columns to the prejudice of any.

We know very well to what extent we have gone in defence of State laws, the rights of citizens, &c., and in denouncing those who seemed at one time disposed to trample these laws under the feet of the Progress and Standard inferred from our course on those subjects that we were members of their "conservative" (destructive as it now seems) party, it was no fault of ours.

To the people of Rowan and of the whole State, we would say, remember the traitorous conduct of the editor of the *Standard* in 1841 or '42. He then deserted you and went bag and baggage over to the then democratic party, and his language was too mean to be applied even to such men as Graham, Morehead, Vance and others; and he will do it again, whenever he feels he is not regarded with confidence enough to be entrusted with power and place. He has proved false to almost every profession of his life. Beware then fellow-citizens, if he deceives you once, that was his fault; if he deceives you again, it will be your own fault.

A LETTER FROM CAPT. MAFFITT.

Capt. Maffitt, of the Florida, at Brest, writes a letter to *La Patrie*, (Paris,) explaining the position of his ship according to international law. He says:

Brest, Sept. 12, 1863.

Sir: Your number of the 10th instant, contains two errors, which I beg permission to rectify. It states: "Two incidents have just taken place in France and England which interest the American question. The first is the seizure at Brest by a French ship owner, of the Confederate privateer Florida, who claims from her an indemnity of 100,000 francs for the loss of a vessel belonging to him, and which was sunk by the said privateer." On this first point I have the honor to assure you that, in spite of the threats of certain persons who pretend to have claim against the corvette Florida, she has not been yet seized.

I protest in the most formal and energetic manner against the second allegation; the Florida has never had any reason for sinking a French vessel; that assertion is false, and I refer you on that point to the letter published by M. Pacquet du Bulletin, in the *Ocean*, of Brest, which contains a faithful relation of the incidents of the encounter which took place between the Florida and the French vessel, the *Bremonier*. As to the qualification of privateer which you give to the corvette I have the honor to command, it arises, no doubt, from the fact of your having been informed as to the armament of the Florida. A privateer, according to the definition given by Nael and Chapsal, is "a vessel armed by private individuals with the authorization of the Government." That definition has been, I believe, adopted by all writers who have treated on the international law, but it accords but little with the real situation of the Florida. That corvette has, in fact, been built and armed by the Government of the Confederate States of America, and her officers hold their commissions from that Government.

She carries the national flag and the pennant carried by vessels of war, and receives her instructions directly from the Minister of Marine of the Confederate States. The European Powers having recognized the possession by the Government of Richmond of the rights of belligerents, among which are those of forming armies and fitting out vessels of war, I am at a loss to understand that the fact of my Government not being yet officially acknowledged, can take from it the rights inherent to every de facto Government, and place it in the category of a private individual fitting out a privateer, and thus change the nature and true character of its national navy. Such an interpretation of national law appears to me to be untenable. Relying on your impartiality, I beg you to insert this letter in the earliest number of your estimable journal.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my perfect consideration.

J. N. MAFFITT.

Cavalry Fight in Tennessee—Rosecrans's Rail Road Communications cut.

We announced some days ago that Maj. Gen. S. D. Lee, with a considerable body of cavalry, was operating against the Memphis and Nashville railroads in Rosecrans' rear. Official information has been received here that Brigadier General Chalmers, of Gen. Lee's command, had an encounter with the enemy, on Thursday, at Salem, Franklin county, Tennessee, in which the latter was badly beaten and driven off. Our loss was three killed and thirty wounded; that of the enemy more than three times as great. Salem is midway between the railroads

leading from Chattanooga to Memphis and Nashville, and some forty miles west of Chattanooga.

The fight, as we understand occurred on Thursday, the 8th inst. The Memphis road had been tapped, and communication by it interrupted on the previous day, and on Saturday, the 10th inst., General Chalmers expected to do the same for the Nashville railroad.—*Examiner*, 12th.

General Bragg in a Difficulty with His Officers—Arrest of General Polk, Etc.

It is no secret—for the telegraph has already told it—that Gen. Bragg, immediately after the battle of Chickamauga, in consequence of some disagreement, caused Gen. Polk and other of his officers to be relieved of their commands and placed under arrest. The act has called forth considerable animadversion. The correspondent of the *Atlanta Confederacy*, in some speculations as to the cause of this step, says:

A member of Gen. Bragg's staff, while at these headquarters a short time since, stated that Gen. Polk is responsible for the present position of Rosecrans's army; that if the orders given to Gen. Polk had been obeyed at the proper time Rosecrans's army would have been cut to pieces and captured; that Gen. Polk was ordered peremptorily by Gen. Bragg to renew the fight at dawn of day Sunday morning, the 20th, and that at ten o'clock Sunday morning the attack had not been made; that he (the staff officer) was sent by Gen. Bragg to Gen. Polk to know why the attack had not been made. He found Gen. Polk on this side (south side) of Chickamauga reading a newspaper. His answer was he could not tell why the attack had not been made; that he had issued the necessary orders the over night; that he was very anxious the attack should be made, and that he would go directly himself and see about it.

This same staff officer informed us that, before the fight of Chickamauga, at McLemore's cove, Gen. Hindman, with 17,000 effective muskets, was ordered to attack a body of the enemy, which, if he had done as ordered, he would have captured Thomas' corps, numbering 13,000 men. Hindman, by moving two miles, would have cut off Thomas' only avenue of escape, for he was otherwise surrounded, put him under arrest.

From the above source I get also the information that Gen. Bragg and Breckinridge have buried the hatchet—that, after the fight was over, and Gen. Bragg was riding along the line of Breckinridge's encampment, at a given signal three hearty cheers, along the whole line, for Gen. Bragg, the Hero of Chickamauga, were given, and Gen. Breckinridge himself gave three cheers; after which he and Bragg took a friendly shake of the hand, and tiny blue curls, eye, fragrant curls, went up from the pipe of peace.

The *Augusta Chronicle* says:

We have heard various reasons assigned why Gen. Bragg found it necessary to pursue such a course with Gen. Polk. A very current rumor is that Gen. Polk was ordered to renew the attack on the enemy at 5 o'clock of the Sunday of the battle, and that he did not make the assault until after 9 o'clock. In consequence of his delay, other orders, which were to be executed after Gen. Polk's assault had commenced, could not be executed. The consequence was, that night availed the armies before the rout of the enemy could be effected. The delay in the morning gave him ample time to put everything in preparation to receive the assault, whilst it also postponed the victory to such a late hour in the day that it was impossible for our men to gather as much fruit as would undoubtedly have been secured had the attack been made as directed.

The parting of Gen. Polk with his command is said to have been affecting in the extreme, so endeared had he made himself to them. His parting address to his troops is truly eloquent, and attests his magnanimity as a soldier. He says:

In consequence of an unfortunate disagreement between myself and the commander in chief of this department, I have been relieved of my command, and am about to retire from the army. Without attempting to explain the circumstances of this disagreement, or prejudicing the public mind by a premature appeal to its judgment, I must be permitted to express my unqualified conviction of the rectitude of my conduct, and that time and investigation will amply vindicate my action on the field of Chickamauga.

After the usual expression of "regret" at the severance from his command Gen. Polk says:

"Soldiers who struggle in such a cause, and with such hearts, can never be conquered." Clouds and darkness may enshroud you for a time, but the sunlight of the future is bright and glowing; the blood of patriots is never shed in vain, and our final victory is certain and assured.—Whoever commands you, my earnest exhortation and request to you is, to fight on and fight over, with true hearts, until your independence is achieved. Thousands of hearts may fall crushed and bleeding under the weapons of the foe, or the passions of mistakes of friends, but the